

Nottingham City Council

Childcare Sufficiency Summary Report Card

Summer 2022

Introduction

Childcare Sufficiency: Local Authority responsibility

Sufficient, accessible and high quality childcare is an essential factor in promoting school readiness; widening access to employment and study for parents; as well as maximising opportunities for families to benefit from the economic, social and health benefits of employment.

The Childcare Act 2006 (updated 2016) places a duty on all Local Authorities to secure free provision for eligible 2, 3 and 4 year olds and ensure that there is sufficient childcare for working parents. Whilst the Local Authority is not responsible for providing childcare itself, it is responsible for managing the market to ensure that these duties are met.

Monitoring Childcare Sufficiency

Nottingham City Council publishes a full Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) report on a three yearly cycle, considering demand, supply and accessibility in order to identify any gaps in sufficiency. This is followed by bi-annual refreshes of the data. The full CSA is an in-depth ward level review that includes a survey of both parents and providers.

Ongoing childcare monitoring data is available from the Early Years Profile on Nottingham Insight. This is a set of ward level profiles refreshed bi-annually to reflect current eligibility, places and participation in full-time childcare by age group. The profile also includes population and health data to provide a more complete view of the Early Years age group.

Methodology

As this is a summary report, only childcare providers and schools in Nottingham were consulted as part of the Summer Term 2022 CSA using online surveys. The views and feedback from parents and employers were collated and reported on in the Autumn Term 2020 CSA. Ofsted statistics and local intelligence, including Early Years Headcount data, form the content of this report and help draw conclusions on childcare sufficiency.

Please Note: Information contained within this report relates to data collated during the Summer Term 2022. The impact of the pandemic on childcare in general continues to emerge and will do so for many months to come. Situations can change rapidly therefore we acknowledge that some of the information within this report may already have changed and be outdated. The Local Authority will be aware of such changes and will ensure that current data is used at all times when planning sufficiency intervention.

Key Findings and Executive Summary

Childcare Sufficiency: current context

Sufficient, accessible and high quality childcare is significant in promoting school readiness; widening access to employment and study for parents; as well as maximising opportunities for families to benefit from the economic, social and health benefits of employment.

The pandemic has had a significant impact on the childcare sector and has made supply and demand of the childcare market difficult to predict. It continues to be an ever-changing picture for the sector as the full effect of the past 2 years starts to emerge. Coupled with the current economic crisis, on families and business alike, it has never been more important to assess sufficiency

What are the Childcare Sufficiency Assessments telling us?

The quality of childcare remains high in Nottingham with 100% of Day Nurseries and Pre-schools and 96% of Childminders in the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sectors graded as newly registered, met, good or outstanding by Ofsted.

Based upon the current return, there are sufficient childcare places across all age groups. This is based on the number of vacancies which currently exist. The sufficiency of out of school provision remains a concern. Demand for after school provision has increased slightly, however this could be due to a fall in the number of available places. Holiday club places have decreased by 13%. There has been a small decrease in the overall number of childcare providers in the City, however, this remains below the national average. Overall, vacancy rates have increased from 25% in the Summer Term 2021 to 30% this term.

The uptake of childcare places for children 0 to 2 years has increased slightly compared to Autumn Term 2021. The uptake of childcare places for 2 year olds (funded and non-funded) has increased by 10%, however the funded element, only by 1%. The uptake of childcare places for 3 and 4 year olds (funded and non-funded) has increased by 11%, and the funded element only by 23%.

Our immediate priorities continue to be the recovery of early years funded provision back to pre-pandemic levels and above, support to the sector with regards to the ongoing staffing crisis which we know is limiting recovery and expansion across the sectors and maintaining the monitoring, support and intervention to the early years and childcare sector, through the [Provider Support Framework](#), with regards to business sustainability and quality of service.

The **Strategic Council Plan for 2021-23** sets out what Nottingham City Council aims to deliver for residents over the next two years. There are eleven high level outcomes, two of which are particularly relevant for our sector:

Outcome 2 (Keeping Nottingham Working) – sufficient, accessible childcare services are essential for enabling parents to work or access training to work.

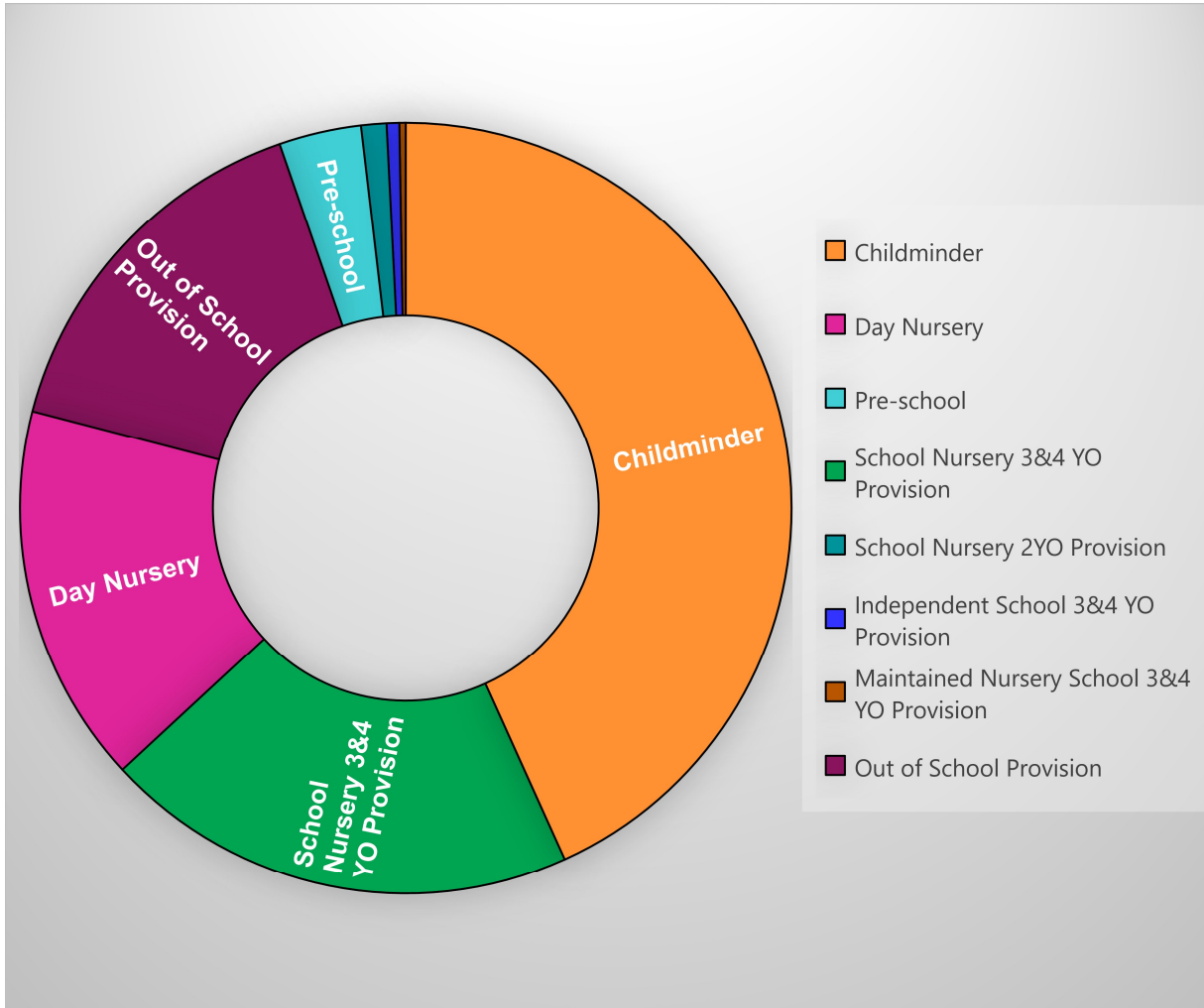
Outcome 5 (Child Friendly Nottingham) – participation of funded childcare for 2 year olds is sited as a key activity of this outcome.

Childcare Sufficiency Report

The following Report is the Summer Term 2022 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment which covers an overview of quality of provision, supply, participation and vacancy information broken down into age groups.

All queries should be directed to Catherine Smith, Early Years Programmes Manager, at: catherine.smith@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

SECTION 1: Overview of childcare services in Nottingham



In Nottingham, there are a total of 376 registered early years and childcare providers. This includes childminders, day nurseries, pre-schools and school nurseries. This data is based on information held within the Council's [ASKLiON](#) website, which is maintained by the FIS Team ([Families Information Service](#))

Out of 376 registered providers and primary schools in Nottingham, a total of 220 (58%) responded to the Early Years Provider Survey. Much of the data within this report is based upon this survey. We must therefore exercise a degree of caution when scrutinising the data within this report due to missing data from schools and the childminder sector. 39% of schools and 37% of childminders did not respond to the survey.

Childminders	163
Day Nurseries	59
Pre-Schools	13
School Nurseries 3&4 YO Provision	75
School Nurseries 2 YO Provision	4
Independent Schools 3&4 YO Provision	2
Maintained Nursery School 3&4 YO Provision	1
Out of School Provision	59

SECTION 2: Registered childcare provision: openings and closures *(sourced from local Ofsted data and Childminder Agency data)*



What is the data telling us?

- Overall, Nottingham has seen a 2.6% decrease in the number of registered childcare providers since December 2021, compared to the 4% decrease nationally, reported 31st March 2022 (<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/childcare-providers-and-inspections-as-at-31-march-2022/main-findings-childcare-providers-and-inspections-as-at-31-march-2022>)
- Childminding remains the most transient type of provision in the City and the closures represent some natural churn (moving out of the area).
- For those planning to register as a childminder, there has been 1 childminder briefing session delivered to 6 prospective childminders working towards Ofsted registration since January 2022.

Risks:

- The pandemic, combined with a national early years staffing crisis and proposed local reductions to council buildings (some rented by childcare providers), are placing some childcare businesses at risk. A number of providers are operating at reduced capacity as they are currently unable to recruit suitable early years staff.

SECTION 3: Ofsted inspection and quality of childcare *(sourced from local Ofsted data and Childminder Agency data)*

Ofsted inspection grades as of 27.07.2022	Outstanding	Good	Met	Requires Improvement	Inadequate	Not Met	Newly Registered	Total	Proportion Good/Outstanding/New/Met
Childminder	9	89	25	1	4	2	33	163	96%
Day Nursery/ Pre-School	3	58	1	0	0	0	10	72	100%
School	5	59	0	4	0	0	7	75	95%

98% of funded 2 year olds, and 98% of 3 and 4 year olds, accessed early years provision in settings graded as good, outstanding, new or met by Ofsted.

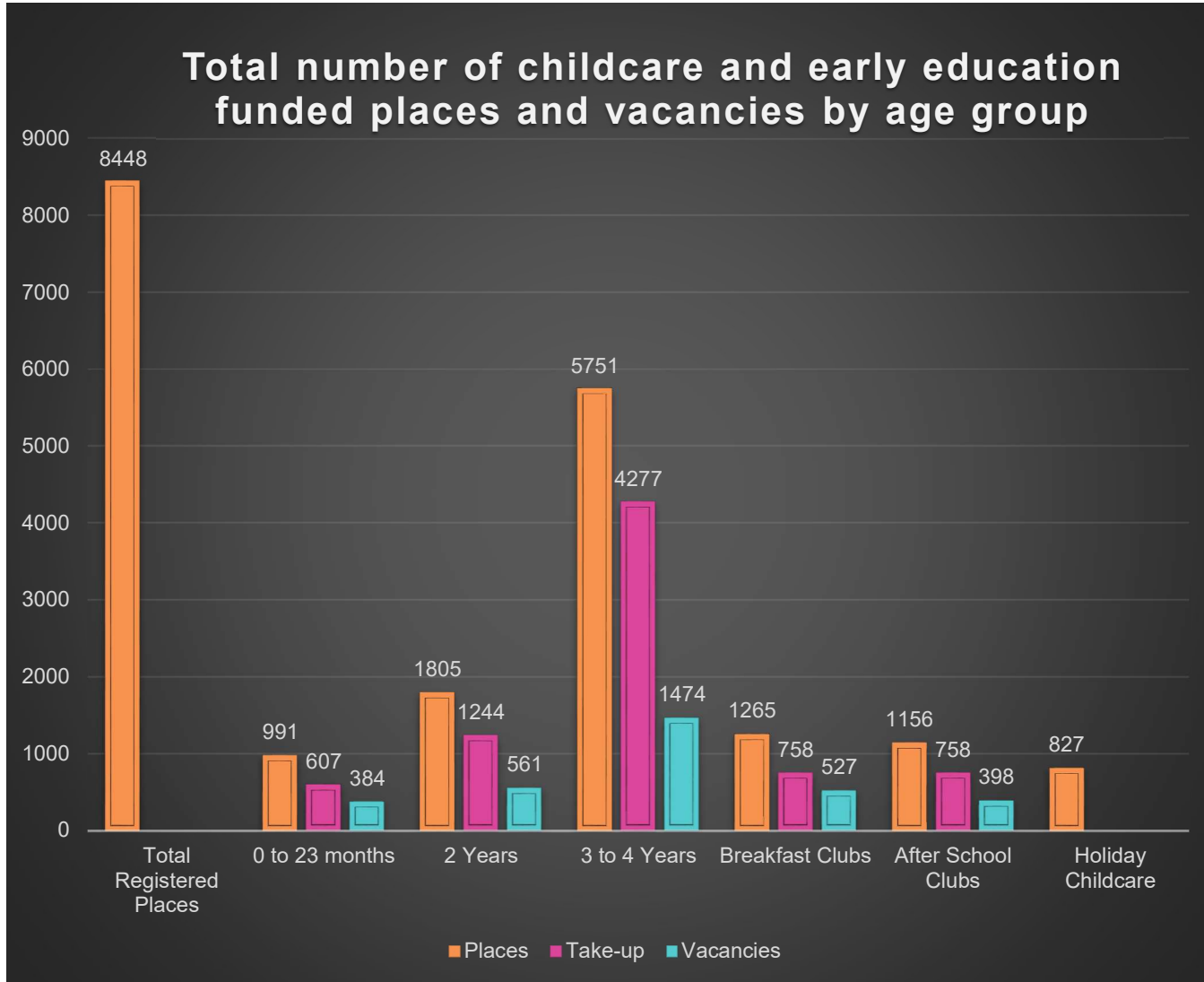
EYFS Reforms: LA Support Strategy

September 2021 saw the introduction of a revised statutory Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework for all providers working with early years, which includes changes made to the end of EYFS statutory assessment. This was followed by a years’ transition period to test out new ways of working, curriculum and assessment methods. As a LA (Early Years Team), a strategy was developed to deliver support across all early years sectors (schools, day nurseries, pre-schools and childminders) to ensure that quality of provision and outcomes for children remained a priority. The strategy involved:

- Dedicated page on the Early Years website and series of informative, bite-size vodcasts, both reported by the sector as invaluable in supporting implementation of the new framework.
- Attendance at, or delivery of, information sessions/network meetings to Head Teachers, Early Years Leads and Early Years Practitioners.
- Working parties which enabled the sharing of good practice and solution-focused peer discussion on emerging issues and challenges.
- Agreement Trialling sessions for early years practitioners (schools and PVI) to support providers to raise outcomes for our youngest children, with overwhelming positive feedback from practitioners who attended, stating it was supportive, reassuring and gave ideas to support those children not yet on track.

To date, 26 early years providers in Nottingham have been inspected by Ofsted under the new EYFS framework. 73% of those inspected achieved a met, good or outstanding judgement. The majority of those graded as good or above are in the Day Nursery/Pre-School sector. Activities within the strategy were well attended or accessed however; the childminding sector was under-represented, therefore the Early Years Team are giving consideration to the accessibility of our development opportunities.

SECTION 4: Supply of childcare places *(taken from the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Provider Survey Summer term 2022)*
























SUMMARY

Citywide:

- On average 1 childcare place for every 6 children
- 30% of childcare places are currently vacant (this figure does not include holiday care provision).
- 3% decrease in childcare places overall. 0 to 2 year old provision has seen the greatest decrease at 10% of places. After school and breakfast club provision has seen an increase in places of 9%.
- Holiday childcare places decreased by 13%. Some providers reported concerns on the impact of the DfE Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) - free holiday activity sessions funded through the HAF.
- Of those schools with a completed survey, 27% have breakfast club provision.

SECTION 5a: Birth to two year old places and uptake *(sourced from the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Provider Survey Summer 2022)*

		A	B	B / A x 100	Autumn 2021 comparison	
	Number of children in ward (0 to 2 yrs.)	Number of available childcare places	Uptake of childcare places	Uptake Rate		
Aspley	731	23	10	43%	57%	
Basford	492	42	17	40%	74%	
Berridge	538	24	11	46%	53%	
Bestwood	592	14	6	43%	24%	
Bilborough	471	32	27	84%	38%	
Bulwell	562	37	23	62%	44%	
Bulwell Forest	345	38	27	71%	53%	
Castle	128	84	63	75%	81%	
Clifton East	430	35	25	71%	55%	
Clifton West	277	10	1	10%	23%	
Dales	612	21	21	100%	73%	
Hyson Green & Arboretum	566	59	31	53%	51%	
Leen Valley	215	41	16	39%	27%	
Lenton & Wollaton East	300	148	126	85%	66%	
Mapperley	391	43	24	56%	50%	
Meadows	270	8	3	38%	17%	
Radford	272	87	20	23%	72%	
Sherwood	406	108	69	64%	74%	
St Ann's	539	36	12	33%	53%	
Wollaton West	387	101	75	74%	60%	
Nottingham	8,524	991	607	61%	60%	

SECTIONS 5b: Two year old places and uptake (sourced from the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Provider Survey Summer 2022)

Places and uptake for children aged two years (funded and non-funded provision)

		A	B	B / A x 100	Autumn 2021 comparison	
	Number of children in ward (2 yrs.)	Number of available childcare places	Uptake of childcare places	Uptake Rate		
Aspley	405	142	98	69%	46%	↑
Basford	253	64	40	63%	65%	↓
Berridge	257	99	60	61%	51%	↑
Bestwood	285	37	20	54%	55%	↓
Bilborough	234	53	41	77%	66%	↑
Bulwell	225	87	64	74%	62%	↑
Bulwell Forest	167	98	73	74%	57%	↑
Castle	43	99	78	79%	67%	↑
Clifton East	203	68	55	81%	78%	↑
Clifton West	132	35	27	77%	58%	↑
Dales	314	76	62	82%	70%	↑
Hyson Green & Arboretum	271	99	63	64%	48%	↑
Leen Valley	100	60	28	47%	55%	↓
Lenton & Wollaton East	161	135	116	86%	58%	↑
Mapperley	193	47	37	79%	73%	↑
Meadows	150	19	14	74%	30%	↑
Radford	133	232	130	56%	51%	↑
Sherwood	201	138	90	65%	60%	↑
St Ann's	265	104	51	49%	55%	↓
Wollaton West	200	113	97	86%	76%	↑
Nottingham	4,192	1805	1244	69%	59%	↑

SECTION 5c: Three and four year old places and uptake – All providers *(sourced from the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Provider Survey Summer 2022)*






















Places and uptake for children aged three and four years old (funded and non-funded provision)

	Number of children in ward (3 and 4 yrs.)	A	B	B / A x 100	Autumn 2021 comparison	
		Number of available childcare places	Uptake of childcare places	Uptake Rate		
Aspley	790	234	130	56%	40%	⬆️
Basford	484	355	280	79%	70%	⬆️
Berridge	481	262	181	69%	62%	⬆️
Bestwood	580	306	206	67%	80%	⬇️
Bilborough	516	374	264	71%	59%	⬆️
Bulwell	515	336	262	78%	67%	⬆️
Bulwell Forest	326	361	295	82%	69%	⬆️
Castle	64	118	111	94%	68%	⬆️
Clifton East	480	439	387	88%	69%	⬆️
Clifton West	268	88	66	75%	54%	⬆️
Dales	542	334	203	61%	58%	⬆️
Hyson Green & Arboretum	536	349	246	70%	57%	⬆️
Leen Valley	191	212	94	44%	34%	⬆️
Lenton & Wollaton East	328	257	227	88%	67%	⬆️
Mapperley	380	178	167	94%	69%	⬆️
Meadows	260	133	116	87%	73%	⬆️
Radford	240	408	325	80%	77%	⬆️
Sherwood	421	279	208	75%	55%	⬆️
St Ann's	563	427	246	58%	53%	⬆️
Wollaton West	427	301	263	87%	66%	⬆️
Nottingham	8,392	5751	4277	74%	63%	⬆️






















SECTION 5d: Out of school places and uptake (sourced from the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Provider Survey Summer 2022)

	Number of children in ward (4-11)	Holiday Scheme Places	Breakfast Club Places	Breakfast Club % Uptake	After School Club Places	After School Club % Uptake
Aspley	3,171	99	126	↓ 26%	99	↓ 30%
Basford	1,934	53	41	↓ 27%	58	↓ 41%
Berridge	1,815	30	70	↑ 77%	35	↓ 57%
Bestwood	2,049	38	78	↑ 68%	69	↑ 77%
Bilborough	2,059	29	31	↓ 32%	33	↓ 48%
Bulwell	2,035	51	65	↑ 43%	58	↑ 50%
Bulwell Forest	1,328	58	116	↑ 76%	124	↑ 79%
Castle	211	0	0	→ 0	0	→ 0
Clifton East	1,788	66	142	↑ 75%	77	↓ 51%
Clifton West	959	24	14	↓ 57%	10	↓ 0%
Dales	2,037	6	95	↑ 83%	51	↑ 71%
Hyson Green & Arboretum	2,014	22	40	→ 90%	53	↑ 83%
Leen Valley	791	15	15	↓ 0%	15	↓ 60%
Lenton & Wollaton East	1,072	24	5	↓ 20%	0	↓ 0%
Mapperley	1,415	29	21	↓ 48%	40	↑ 83%
Meadows	1,010	16	14	↓ 29%	20	↓ 50%
Radford	853	135	65	↑ 83%	55	↓ 49%
Sherwood	1,508	16	78	↑ 81%	49	↓ 92%
St Ann's	1,757	55	132	↓ 61%	213	↑ 77%
Wollaton West	1,718	61	117	↓ 44%	97	↑ 85%
Nottingham	31,524	827	1265	↑ 60%	1156	↑ 66%

SECTION 5e: Early Years FUNDED provision - Two year old uptake (sourced from the Summer Term 2022 Early Years Headcount, measured against the associated DWP data of potentially eligible children)

	Number of potentially eligible children in ward	Take-up PVI	Take-up schools	Take-up %	Autumn 2021 comparison	
Aspley	172	132	2	80%	72%	
Basford	92	58	2	65%	63%	
Berridge	107	43	11	51%	56%	
Bestwood	148	95	2	66%	65%	
Bilborough	113	70	3	65%	68%	
Bulwell	149	99	3	69%	68%	
Bulwell Forest	89	43	12	62%	65%	
Castle	12	7	1	67%	129%	
Clifton East	92	30	18	52%	55%	
Clifton West	31	18	0	58%	83%	
Dales	94	53	0	56%	68%	
Hyson Green & Arboretum	130	58	8	51%	50%	
Leen Valley	32	13	4	53%	42%	
Lenton & Wollaton East	65	36	3	60%	68%	
Mapperley	79	42	4	58%	54%	
Meadows	70	30	1	44%	54%	
Radford	70	33	18	73%	97%	
Sherwood	46	27	0	59%	64%	
St Ann's	133	81	16	73%	69%	
Wollaton West	33	21	0	64%	110%	
Other		66	0			
Nottingham	1757	1055	108	66%	65%	

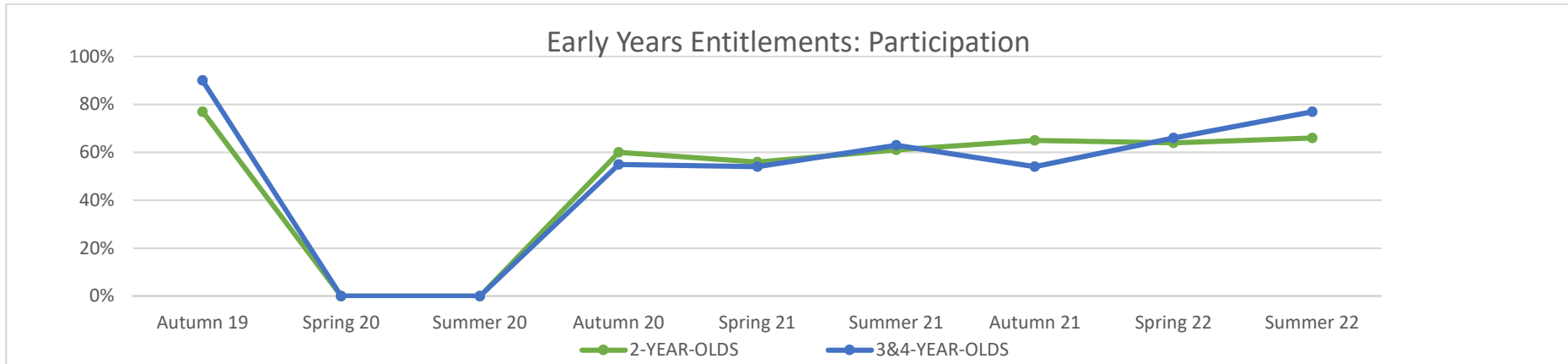
SECTION 5f: Early Years UNIVERSAL FUNDED provision - Three and four year old uptake *(sourced from the Summer Term 2022 Early Years Headcount)*

	A	B	C	B+C/A x 100	Autumn 2021 comparison	
	Number of children in ward (3 and 4 yrs.)	Uptake in Private, Voluntary and Independent Providers	Uptake in Schools	Uptake Rate		
Aspley	612	189	258	73%	47%	
Basford	382	96	212	81%	51%	
Berridge	451	115	214	73%	55%	
Bestwood	460	100	249	76%	80%	
Bilborough	445	155	174	74%	57%	
Bulwell	455	115	196	68%	56%	
Bulwell Forest	272	55	150	75%	68%	
Castle	113	26	21	42%	41%	
Clifton East	367	42	249	79%	51%	
Clifton West	200	46	75	61%	39%	
Dales	453	64	161	50%	48%	
Hyson Green & Arboretum	467	136	214	75%	52%	
Leen Valley	223	92	92	83%	64%	
Lenton & Wollaton East	252	63	112	69%	48%	
Mapperley	336	97	117	64%	51%	
Meadows	182	51	95	80%	47%	
Radford	231	55	108	71%	46%	
Sherwood	350	111	91	58%	45%	
St Ann's	442	96	226	73%	59%	
Wollaton West	343	147	100	72%	57%	
Other		324	113			
Nottingham	7,036	2175	3227	77%	54%	

SECTION 5g: Early Years EXTENDED FUNDED provision (30 hours) - Three and four year old uptake *(sourced from the Summer Term 2022 Early Years Headcount)*

	Number of potentially eligible children in ward	Take-up PVI	Take-up schools	Uptake Rate
Aspley	121	59	29	73%
Basford	76	42	70	148%
Berridge	89	48	30	87%
Bestwood	91	31	86	128%
Bilborough	88	74	30	118%
Bulwell	90	52	46	109%
Bulwell Forest	54	29	49	145%
Castle	22	3	0	13%
Clifton East	73	28	77	144%
Clifton West	40	29	15	111%
Dales	90	19	24	48%
Hyson Green & Arboretum	92	26	7	36%
Leen Valley	44	56	5	138%
Lenton Abbey & Wollaton East	50	20	6	52%
Mapperley	67	46	17	95%
Meadows	36	22	8	83%
Radford	46	10	11	46%
Sherwood	69	69	27	138%
St Ann's	88	39	31	80%
Wollaton West	68	110	25	199%
Other		207	54	
Nottingham	1395	1019	647	119%

SECTION 6: Early Years Funded Provision: Post COVID Recovery



Context:

- *Autumn Term 2019* – final measure of pre-pandemic ‘take-up’.
- *Spring and Summer Terms 2020* – no available data. National restrictions limited children accessing provision.

What is the data telling us?

Pre-pandemic participation (both universal 3&4 year old and targeted 2 year old funded entitlements) levels were above, or in line, with local/national targets. Both saw a decrease in participation of 20% or more as a result of the pandemic. Despite a dip in participation in the Autumn Term 2021, participation of the universal entitlement for 3&4 year olds is now recovering well. Funded provision for 2 year olds rose steadily but has now started to plateau. This is not in line with take-up of all childcare places for 2 year olds (funded and non-funded), which has seen a 10% increase from the previous term. Schools also reported through the Provider Survey that they have seen an increase in the number of rising 3 year olds entering their nursery provision.

Next steps

Investigate further the following:

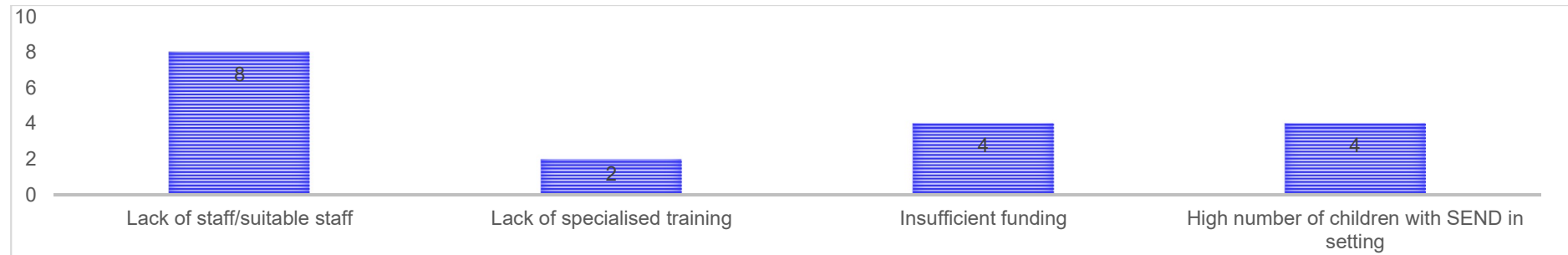
- Are all providers supporting parents to check their eligibility for the 2 year old entitlement and actively claiming funding?
- Are providers prioritising 3&4 year old provision and holding waiting lists for 2 year olds due to staffing shortages and other barriers?

SECTION 7: Services for children who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) *(sourced from the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Provider Survey Summer Term 2022)*

Local provision of SEND (Schools and PVI)

From the Summer Term 2022 survey, 54% of providers (schools and PVI) reported supporting a child, or children, with SEND. The total number of children with SEND reported as being supported by the early years sector in the Summer Term is 404.

When asked 'Have you been able to accommodate all children with SEND?' 30% of early years providers answered **no**. This is an increase of 10% from Autumn Term 2021. The reasons given for this are as follows:



Training. The DfE announced the Best Practice Network will deliver accredited Level 3 Early Years SENCO training. The qualification will be nationally available and will target specific areas based on levels of disadvantage. Further information can be accessed here: <https://www.bestpracticenet.co.uk/early-years-SENCO>

SEND Funding. There are 81 children across the city currently benefitting from Early Years SEND funding.

The Disability Access Fund (DAF). DAF increased in April 2022 from £615 to £800 per year, per eligible child. 25 children in the Summer Term were in receipt of DAF, a 60% increase in the number who benefitted in Autumn Term 2021.

Early Years SEND Pathway. The Early Years Special Educational Needs and Disability Referral Pathway (EY SEND Pathway) gives Early Years providers and other professionals a single referral route to Local Authority Specialist Support Services for children in the Early Years. 24% of early years providers reported making a referral through the Early Years SEND Pathway. For more information, please email EYSENDreferrals@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

SECTION 8: Current economic climate on childcare services and additional factors to consider

Sustainability of childcare business: current position *(sourced from the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Provider Survey Summer Term 2022)*

- 37% of providers have seen an increase in occupancy compared to 15% in the Autumn Term 2021 (largest increase: Schools N1, including rising 3's and PVI baby places)
- 23% of providers have seen a decrease in occupancy compared to 44% in the Autumn Term 2021 (biggest decrease – PVI OOSC)
- 35% of providers have no concerns about their business sustainability
- 24% of providers have concerns about their business compared to 35% in the Autumn Term 2021.

According to provider data, there seems to be a level of stability returning to the sector however; there are several emerging or increasing factors which are of concern and have the potential to force childcare business closures in the future:

Cost of living crisis (inflationary pressures)

Families and childcare providers alike are struggling amid rising energy bills, fuel costs and general cost of living increases. For families, rising costs are forcing parents to reconsider household budgets and re-prioritise essential and non-essential costs. Childcare may be a cost which is no longer affordable. For childcare businesses, they are experiencing the same pressures, with the addition of business rates increases and increased staffing costs.

According to the Office for National Statistics findings (Opinions and Lifestyle Survey):

- Over 8 in 10 (83%) adults reported an increase in their cost of living in March 2022, compared with around 6 in 10 (62%) adults in November 2021.
- In early 2022, an increase in the price of food shopping (90%), gas or electricity bills (79%) and the price of fuel (71%) were the most common reasons reported by adults who said that their cost of living had increased.
- A greater proportion of parents with dependent children (41% with a dependent child between 0 and 4 years and 40% of parents with a dependent child aged 5 years or over) reported their household could not afford an unexpected expense compared with non-parents or parents not living with a dependent child (25%).

Changes to family working patterns

There continues to be a rise locally and nationally in parents opting to educate their children at home. This is mirrored in the increase in parents working from home, or those who have adapted their working hours, to enable them to manage their own childcare arrangements. Some business have, or are planning to, support their employees to work from home, which may have a sustained detrimental impact on all childcare provision, particularly that in the out of school sector.

Staffing

As previously reported in the Autumn Term 2021, a local and national early years staffing crisis is having a significant impact on the early years and childcare sector. The sector are struggling to retain suitably qualified, experienced staff who are leaving to pursue alternative careers with more work-life flexibility or higher salaries. When trying to recruit, providers are faced with no interest or applicants with little or no experience or insufficient qualifications. Whilst this is being monitored and intervention considered nationally, locally we are considering as a LA, how best to support the sector at this challenging time. Currently, we have joined forces with neighbouring LA's to produce a 'Careers in Childcare' video, which will be used to promote working in childcare throughout the East and West Midlands. The Early Years Team produce regular 'Recruitment Specials' where providers can advertise vacancies, and our termly newsletter also has a regular feature on recruitment.

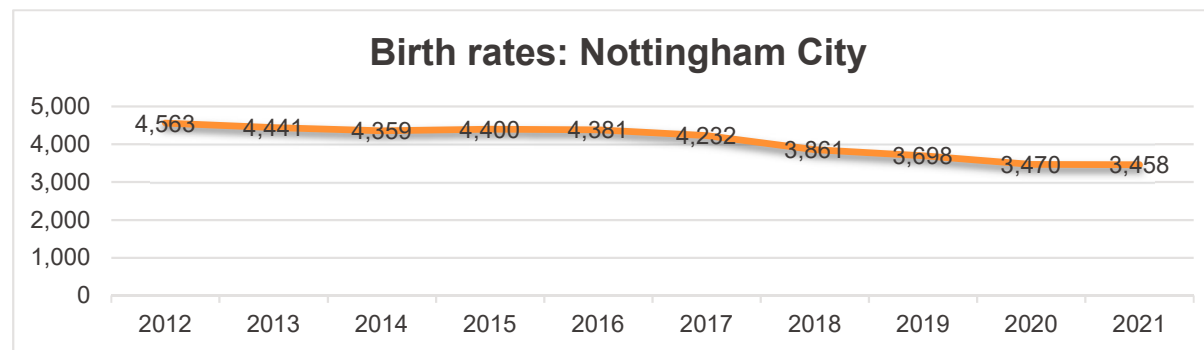
Birth rate (Public Health England)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Nottingham	4,563	4,441	4,359	4,400	4,381	4,232	3,861	3,698	3,470	3,458

Falling birth rate

The number of births in Nottingham has been reducing year on year for a few years, as is the case nationally.

It is possible that the birth rates could rise again, or that outward migration could fall, which would lead to a higher demand for childcare places. It is therefore crucial that demographic trends continue to be closely monitored.



DfE Early Years Recovery Programme

The DfE's [Early Years Recovery Programme](#) is part of the government's £180m programme of support for early years, focused on supporting practitioners and leaders, who are key to addressing the effects of the pandemic on the youngest children and supports the aim of improving outcomes and closing the attainment gap at age 5.

SECTION 10: Childcare Sufficiency and Next Steps

Funded places for 2, 3 and 4 year-olds

For the Summer Term 2022, participation in both the universal and extended entitlements for 3 and 4 year olds increased significantly from the previous term, however, there is some way to go before the universal entitlement reaches its pre-pandemic level. Participation of the funded entitlement for 2 year olds has plateaued. Data within this report demonstrates childcare vacancies for 2, 3 and 4 year olds across the City.

Data from the Early Years Provider Survey demonstrates 88% of early years providers offer information to parents on the funded entitlements, however only 57% of PVI providers and 22% of schools have actively supported parents to complete an eligibility application for the funded entitlement for 2 year olds (which is available to complete online).

What are we doing to engage with parents (Summer Term)?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media campaigns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with CityCare and information shared with Health Visiting teams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with parents in partnership with Nottingham Women’s Centre and Economic Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaflets and posters delivered to key venues across the city
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Golden Tickets distributed to potentially eligible families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childcare costs support – fact sheet completed and distributed to childcare providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaflet packs provided to all Ward Councillors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued work with Small Steps Big Changes

What can we do collectively to promote the funded entitlements?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spread the word through social media. Articles and suggested text can be obtained by emailing: catherine.smith@nottinghamcity.gov.uk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure appropriate venues are stocked with leaflets or are displaying the funded entitlements poster. For additional copies, contact the Families Information Service: • 0800 458 4114 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signpost families to the Families Information Service for information on the funded entitlements and childcare providers across the City: • 0800 458 4114 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signpost families to ASKLION for information: www.asklion.co.uk
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Sufficiency of childcare places

There are vacancies reported across each age range within every ward in the City. There needs to be an element of caution taken with the data presented. Measuring sufficiency is complex, particularly as the full extent of the impact of the pandemic and the current cost of living crisis is only just starting to emerge.

There may not be a need to expand provision currently, however maintaining existing childcare places is a priority to ensure availability of service as part of the City's economic recovery.

Out of School places

Compared to the Autumn Term 2021, data in Section 5d shows an increase in breakfast club places and demand. Demand for after school provision has increased slightly, however this could be due to a fall in the number of available places. Holiday club places have decreased by 13%. According to data obtained through the Early Years Provider Survey, 16% of providers reported activities funded through the Holidays Activities and Food Programme (HAF) had affected their holiday childcare provision. As discussed in Section 8, the demand for childcare provision, particularly provision for school aged children, changed over the pandemic and continues to change as employers and employees are affected by the current economic crisis and adapt to new ways of working.

What next?

The **LA Early Years Team** continue to monitor the childcare market through the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA), subsequent CSA action planning and regular termly contact with providers. A tailored package of support, determined by the [Provider Support Framework](#), is offered by a team of EYFS Support Workers. Information and guidance is also offered through the [Early Years website](#).

The LA continue to drive forward their early years funded entitlements engagement strategy in order to work with agencies across the City to raise the profile of the funded entitlements and increase participation.

The **Families Information Service (FIS)** is a LA parent-facing service which provides advice to families on services for children in Nottingham, including childcare and the funded entitlements. This function is carried out through a dedicated free-phone telephone line, and online through [ASKLiON](#). Work is underway to raise the profile of this service to families in the City. FIS's role is fundamental to increasing participation in the funded entitlements.

For further information please contact:

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